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Examiner Langel,

Thank you again for your time this morning. As mentioned by Jim Singer and myself, we have prepared a chart that hopefully will aid in your review of the 9/9/04 claim amendments. We look forward to hearing from you in regards to this case.

Sincerely,
Carissa A. Tener

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Application No. 10/001,573

Low Oxygen CBN

Zimmerman, et al.

Filed 11/2/01

Examiner Langel

128346.31801					
<u>Source</u>	<u>catalyst</u>	<u>oxygen getter</u>	<u>% of oxygen getter</u>	<u>Oxygen content</u>	<u>Crystal toughness</u>
Claim 1	catalyst	oxygen getter comprising Ti, Al and Si	0.005 to 0.5 wt%	less than 300 ppm	Improved toughness: both TI and TTI higher than w/o getter, little difference b/t TI and TTL. For low oxygen content CBN, TTI is actually higher than TI.
Claim 23	catalyst	oxygen getter comprising Ti	0.005 to 0.5 wt%	less than 300 ppm	Improved toughness: both TI and TTI higher than w/o getter, little difference b/t TI and TTI. For low oxygen content CBN, TTI is actually higher than TI.
French	catalyst containing at least one alkali or alkaline-earth metal nitride AND additive element - Al, B, Si, Zr and Ti	none	none	not described	not described
British (Production of PCBN)	refractory comp - transition metal nitride	none	none	not described	not described
Japanese	Si, Al, Li, Mg, Ca, and nitrides thereof	none	none	not described	not described
Sato Article	Mg ₃ N ₂	Zr powder - linked to yield	none	not described	not described
US Patent 3,768,972 Taylor	Al and alloys of Al and Ni	none	none	not described	not described
US Patent 6,508,996 Shioi et al.	amides, imides and carbides of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals AND Si or B source	none	none	NO data - low oxygen hBN as starting material linked to yield	Described, but present invention "improves" toughness, as shown by a smaller difference between TI and TTI in present invention than in Shioi